United Nations S/2001/167

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 February 2001

Original: English

Letter dated 23 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I present my compliments to you and have the honour to forward herewith a self-explanatory letter addressed to you by Mr. Charles Ghankay Taylor, President of Liberia.

I request that this letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Neh **Dukuly-Tolbert**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-26516 (E) 260201

Annex to the letter dated 23 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Our attention is drawn to remarks attributed to Guinea's Army Chief of Staff, Col. Kerfalla Camara, in which he has threatened to take the Guinean conflict "deep into Liberia".

We regard these utterances to be unfriendly, bellicose and tantamount to a declaration of war against the peaceful people of Liberia. Further, such threats are counter to the spirit of peaceful coexistence as enshrined in the Mano River Union mechanism.

It is unfortunate that the Government of Guinea would blame Liberia for its internal problems and use such blame as a ruse to engage in armed confrontation against our people. The fact of the matter is that the ongoing civil war in Guinea has grown out of armed challenges to President Lansana Conteh's Government, as a result of its problems with opposition leader Alpha Conde.

Liberia continues to be a responsible peace-abiding member of the international community which has been the victim of five armed incursions by Guinean-based Liberian dissidents supported by President Conteh's Government.

The continued arms embargo against Liberia makes it difficult for us to defend our sovereign territory against such attacks and could pose a greater threat to our national security if the Guinean army goes ahead with its threat to attack us.

As you are aware, Liberia destroyed all her arms and ammunition several years ago and currently remains disarmed. Accordingly, it would seem only fair, in light of the threats from Guinea, that this country be allowed to secure equipment for its legitimate defence needs.

We hereby call upon the United Nations to prevail on the Guinean authorities to exercise restraint and better judgement against carrying out their threat. Furthermore, we urge the United Nations to support the timely deployment of the monitoring forces of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) along the Liberian/Guinean border.

Any escalation of the already troubling conflict in our subregion could prove disastrous for lasting peace and destabilize West Africa for many years to come.

I should be pleased if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dahkpannah Dr. Charles Ghankay **Taylor**

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Security Council

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26 February 2001
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Identical letters dated 25 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 25 February 2001 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 16 to 22 February 2001 they carried out 209 sorties, 97 of them from Saudi Arabia, 58 from Kuwait and 54 from Turkey.

The Minister reaffirms the Government of Iraq's condemnation of these acts of aggression against Iraqi territory, and he states that international responsibility for them must be borne by the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the logistic support for this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey. He urges you to perform the duties assigned to you under the Charter by halting this unwarranted aggression and ensuring that it does not recur.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-26572 (E) 280201 280201

Identical letters dated 25 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 209 sorties in the period from 16 to 22 February 2001, 97 of them from Saudi Arabia, 58 from Kuwait and 53 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 54 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1015 hours on 19 February 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Irbil, Mosul, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Sinjar, Ayn Zalah and Amadiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1200 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1200 hours on 21 February 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Dohuk, Ayn Zalah, Tall Afar, Aqrah, Amadiyah, Mosul, Sinjar and Rawanduz areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1500 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1105 hours on 22 February 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Amadiyah, Irbil, Mosul, Aqrah, Tall Afar and Dohuk areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1330 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 155 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1930 hours on 16 February 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 38 missions, 28 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Artawi, Nasiriyah, Umm Qasr, Rifa'i, Qurnah, Amarah, Kut, Diwaniyah, Shinafiyah, Samawah, Najaf, Razzazah, Habbaniyah, kilometre 160, Nukhayb, Baghdad and Fallujah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2400 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 0953 hours on 17 February 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from the demilitarized zone and supported by an E-2C command and control aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out nine missions and overflew the Umm Qasr,

Qurnah, Safwan, Jalibah, Artawi, Basrah, Shatrah and Qal'at Salih areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1700 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 0950 hours on 18 February 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 18 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and two from Kuwaiti territory by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Basrah, Amarah, Qurnah, Qal'at Salih, Ashbajah and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1145 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1315 hours on 20 February 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 17 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and nine from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Artawi, Jalibah, Basrah, Busayyah, Qurnah, Qal'at Salih, Nasiriyah, Shatrah, Rifa'i, Samawah, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Salman, Lasaf, Nukhayb and Qal'at Sukkar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1445 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1250 hours on 21 February 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Busayyah, Salman, Lasaf, Ashbajah, Shatrah, Jalibah, Samawah, Jabayish, Shinafiyah, Artawi and Qal'at Salih areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1500 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1100 hours on 22 February 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 42 missions, 22 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 20 from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Basrah, Samawah, Najaf, Diwaniyah, Karbala', Kut, Nu'maniyah, Amarah, Ali al-Gharbi and Nukhayb areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1530 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that

has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these States in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British has made these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear full international responsibility under international law. This includes liability for full compensation for the loss and damage, in both human and material terms, that is caused by these illegal practices.

The Government of Iraq further renews its call to the countries participating in this aggression to desist forthwith from internationally prohibited acts that violate Iraq's sovereignty, place its security and integrity in grave danger and pose a direct and serious threat to international peace and security.

As it condemns these acts of aggression against Iraqi targets and installations, the Government of Iraq urges you to perform the duties assigned to you under the Charter as they relate to the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent, sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Tariq **Aziz**
Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs

United Nations S/2001/169

Security Council

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26 February 2001
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Letter dated 25 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 25 February 2001 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, responding to your letter of 21 February 2001 addressed to him (S/2001/160, annex). It concerns the position that must be taken under the Charter of the United Nations with regard to the United States and British aggression against Baghdad and its outskirts on 16 February 2001 and with regard to the no-flight zones.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-26528 (E) 270201 270201

Annex to the letter dated 25 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have received your letter of 21 February 2001 (S/2001/160, annex) replying to the letter of 17 February 2001 (S/2001/146, annex) in which I asked you to adopt the position that is required by the Charter of the United Nations with respect to the United States and British aggression against Baghdad and its outskirts on 16 February 2001, when three people were killed, a large number were wounded and many installations were destroyed. Allow me to respond to the positions you have taken and to the interpretations given in your letter, because I find it essential to set before you a number of facts.

1. Your letter does not adopt an unequivocal position with respect to the aerial exclusion zones, and you are content to say that "the 'no-fly zones' were declared over parts of the territory of Iraq by certain members of the Security Council, claiming authority under resolutions of the Council". You go on to say that "it is for the Security Council to interpret its own resolutions" and that "only the Council itself is competent to determine whether or not its resolutions are of such a nature and effect as to provide a lawful basis for the 'no-fly zones'". With regard to this logic, some observations are in order.

(a) It would be acceptable to say that "it is for the Council to interpret its own resolutions" if the Council had adopted a resolution imposing no-flight zones on Iraq or if it had adopted a statement or taken a position interpreting or clarifying its previous resolutions as providing a legal basis for the imposition of the no-flight zones. In view of the fact that the Council did nothing of the kind, its existing resolutions do not in any way give individual members of the Council the right to interpret its resolutions in accordance with the dictates of their own political, military and economic interests. If the international community was to allow the United States and British interpretation to stand, it would be conferring on the members of the Security Council new powers for which no provision is made in the Charter. At the same time, the international community is calling for limits on the powers of the five permanent members and for the revocation of some of them (such as the veto), given that such powers are incompatible with the principle of democracy in international relations and with the spirit of the times.

(b) There is international consensus that the two no-flight zones imposed on Iraq constitute a unilateral and unlawful measure for which there is no authorization from the Security Council. There are three permanent members of the Council, to be specific the Russian Federation, China and France, that declare at every opportunity and at the highest political and legislative levels that the no-flight zones lack any basis in international law or in the resolutions of the Security Council. They have demanded the immediate elimination of the zones, and they have condemned the United States and British military assaults that are perpetrated while using them as a pretext. This means that the majority of the permanent members of the Security Council oppose the interpretation of the minority (one or two permanent members) of the nature and scope of the Council's resolutions.

(c) Since the so-called no-flight zones were unilaterally imposed, the United Nations, as represented by the former Secretary-General and by its senior officials, has distanced itself from this unilateral action involving the use of force against an

independent State without the authorization of the Security Council. Your predecessor, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, has stated on several occasions, and most recently in his 1999 book *Unvanquished: A U.S.-U.N. Saga*, that the no-flight zones are a unilateral measure, that they have no basis in international law and that no authorization was given for them or for the use of coercion to enforce them by the Security Council. Security Council resolution 688 (1991), under which the United States and the United Kingdom claim authorization, was not adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter, concerning the authorization of coercive enforcement measures. The no-flight zones have never received the support of the Council. On 7 January 1993, Mr. Joe Sills, then United Nations spokesman, said that the no-flight zone in southern Iraq was not based on any Security Council resolution.

(d) The maintenance of the so-called no-flight zones in northern and southern Iraq represents a serious danger to regional and international peace and security. They involve the use of armed force against an independent State without authorization from the Security Council, and they have caused the deaths of hundreds of Iraqi men and women and have left thousands of wounded. They have led to the destruction of Iraqi residential neighbourhoods, infrastructure, food depots and many installations. The many reports of the United Nations agencies operating in Iraq have established this fact, and United States and British warplanes carry out raids against Iraq, destroy its installations and murder and terrorize its people on a daily basis.

What is required of you under the Charter is that you should alert the Security Council and the international community to the dangers posed by this bellicose military action to regional and international peace and security, especially since most of the world's countries have condemned the maintenance of the two no-flight zones in Iraq and the daily aggression against the country in these zones. I send you letters, at a rate of one a week, in which I set forth precise details of this ongoing aggression. The position of the United States and the United Kingdom on this issue is one that they maintain in total isolation, and indeed many voices have been raised in the United Kingdom and the United States themselves demanding a halt to this unjustified aggression. I refer in this connection, by way of example, to a report of the Defence Committee in the British House of Commons (Thirteenth Report of Session 1999-2000, House of Commons paper 453), that casts doubt on the legal and moral principles that are alleged by the British Government to underlie the imposition of the no-flight zones. The Committee states that it is of the view that the operations in the no-flight zones in which British military personnel take part cannot be justified on any moral or humanitarian grounds. It states that the reasons for the intervention of the United Kingdom in Iraq are to secure the flow of oil, safeguard oil prices and sell arms to certain States in the region. The Committee further states that the imposition of the no-flight zones was not based on any of the resolutions of the Security Council and that resolution 688 (1991), which the British Ministry of Defence claims as justification for their maintenance, does not imply any authorization to use force.

2. Your failure to express an unequivocal view on the no-flight zones, which the world has condemned, does not preclude the expression of an unequivocal view on the aggression of 16 February 2001. This aggression targeted Baghdad and its outskirts, and it caused large-scale material and human losses and aroused the anger of the entire world.

3. In my letter to you, I referred to another reason that should prompt your condemnation and a demand for the removal of the no-flight zones. It was that a number of United States and British aircraft commit their aggression against Iraq by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait. They thus violate the demilitarized zone monitored by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM). Your reply on this point was that UNIKOM monitors all violations committed in the air, on land and at sea on a regular basis and records them in its six-monthly reports but that the mission is unable to identify the aircraft that violate the demilitarized zone. You state that the United Nations has intervened with the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom and has urged them to respect the demilitarized zone. Allow me to make some observations on this statement of yours.

You equate violations committed on land and at sea, on the one hand, with aerial violations, on the other. You are nevertheless aware that in all of its six-monthly reports in recent years UNIKOM has stated that its area of operations is quiet and that violations committed at sea or on land by Iraq and Kuwait consist of little more than, say, a small fishing boat crossing the maritime boundary and then turning back when alerted to the fact, or the observation of movements by civilian vehicles, or shots fired in the air. The aerial violations, on the other hand, consist of an aerial assault by 10 to 20 aircraft a day for the purpose of violating Iraq's sovereignty and committing military aggression against it. The victims of this, as I have stated above, have been more than 300 dead and some thousands of wounded. This requires that the United Nations should take some measure, since it has termed this "a violation", that it should view the party that committed the violation as bearing full international responsibility for it and for its consequences and that it should halt the violation immediately and not await the issuance of a six-monthly report in which there are one or two sentences to the effect that there were aerial violations by aircraft that UNIKOM was unable to identify. As you know, UNIKOM's inability to identify the aircraft can quickly be remedied and should have been addressed from the outset. We ask you for such a remedy with all possible dispatch. You speak of the United Nations intervening with the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom. We welcome this, but we are hearing it for the first time. It should not have remained secret until your letter to me. We hope that the intervention of the United Nations will be unequivocal and decisive and will not take the form of "urging" — a term that is not commensurate with the nature and gravity of the action in question and an activity that will not deter the brutal United States and British aggressors — but that of frank and explicit condemnation in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

United Nations S/2001/170

Security Council

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26 February 2001
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Letter dated 25 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement made by Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister, concerning Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and, in particular, implementation of paragraphs 14 and 22. An impartial evaluation of the obligations fulfilled by Iraq pursuant to this resolution would entail the immediate implementation of those two paragraphs.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-26534 (E) 260201 260201

Annex to the letter dated 25 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Text of the statement made by Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister, on 25 February 2001

World public opinion and the Security Council must beware of the declarations made by the United States and the United Kingdom concerning the so-called new ways of applying the sanctions on Iraq. The basic resolution, adopted by the Security Council in April 1991, is 687 (1991). The resolution contains two paragraphs of fundamental importance. The first of these is paragraph 14, which refers to the goal of establishing in the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction. The second is paragraph 22, which provides for the lifting of the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq. An impartial evaluation of the obligations fulfilled by Iraq pursuant to this resolution would entail the immediate implementation of those two paragraphs.

The United States and the United Kingdom are using false pretences in an attempt to rewrite resolution 687 (1991), erase those two paragraphs and shirk the responsibilities they entail, with a view to distracting attention from the capabilities of the Zionist entity with regard to nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and avoiding having to completely lift the embargo.

While bringing this to the attention of the Security Council and world public opinion, Iraq will continue to expose these suspicious attempts. It will have no dealings with any formula that does not include the complete lifting of the embargo and the application of the provisions of paragraph 14 to all countries in the region and, in particular, the Zionist entity.

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Report by the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the alternate representatives of Ukraine on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received notes verbales dated 21 and 24 February 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations stating that Mr. Markiyan Z. Kulyk, Mr. Vyacheslav Yatsyuk, Mr. Volodymyr Bandura and Mr. Ihor Semenyuk have been appointed alternate representatives of Ukraine on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, that communication constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

01-26622 (E) 260201

United Nations A/55/809–S/2001/172

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 66 and 67 (b)

Development of good-neighbourly relations among Balkan States

Maintenance of international security: stability and development of South-Eastern Europe

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 23 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Summit Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of participating and observer countries to the South-East European Cooperation Process and the Action Plan for Regional Economic Cooperation adopted at the Summit held in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia, on 23 February 2001 (see annex).*

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 66 and 67 (b), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Naste **Calovski**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only (English).

01-26755 (E) 280201

Annex to the letter dated 23 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Summit Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of South-East European Countries

Skopje, 23 February 2001

We, the Heads of State and Government of the participating and the observer countries in the South-East European Cooperation Process, Boris Trajkovski, Ion Iliescu, Vojislav Kostunica, Zivko Radisic, Petar Stoyanov, Bulent Ecevit, Ljubco Georgievski, Ilir Meta, Costas Simitis and the Deputy Prime Minister, Goran Granic, met in Skopje on February 23, 2001, at the Fourth Summit in the framework of the SEECP. Present at the meeting were the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of these countries, Mr. Ismail Cem, Mr. Mircea Geoana, who is also the Chairman in Office of the OSCE, Mr. Srgjan Kerim, Mrs. Nadezhda Mihaylova, Mr. Paskal Milo, Mr. George Papandreou, Mr. Jadranko Prlic and Mr. Goran Svilanovic, as well as Deputy Foreign Minister Mrs. Vesna Cvjetkovic - Kurelec. Mr. Christopher Patten, External Relations Commissioner in the European Commission, Mr. Javier Solana, Secretary General of the Council of EU/High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy and Mr. Bodo Hombach, Special Coordinator for the Stability Pact also participated at the Summit as special guests of the Chairman-in-Office.

The Summit represented yet another opportunity to contribute to the realization of our common commitments to building peace, stability and progress of our countries and in South Eastern Europe as a whole. We have discussed the prospects for further strengthening of good neighborly relations, stability, security and democracy in this part of the European continent and we have exchanged views with regard to the current developments. Furthermore, we have assessed the cooperation within the SEECP and the future prospects for its enhancement in view of our countries faster integration in the European and Euro-Atlantic structures.

We have reaffirmed the commitments contained in the SEECP Summit and Ministerial Declarations and the Charter on Good-Neighborly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation in South Eastern Europe, based on the principles of the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, including all ten principles referred therein, namely, sovereign equality, respect for rights inherent to sovereignty, refraining from the threat or use of force, inviolability of frontiers, territorial integrity of the States, peaceful settlement of disputes, non - intervention in internal affairs, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, equal rights and self - determination of peoples, cooperation among States, fulfillment in good faith of obligations under international law. We have emphasized the importance of the regional cooperation as a means for

enhancement of the good neighborly relations, stability and economic development of our countries. SEECP is an important regional framework for promoting regional cooperation, thus bringing our countries and peoples closer to each other, enhancing regional stability and European integration. In this context, we have welcomed the adhesion of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) and Bosnia and Herzegovina to the SEECP Charter, that formally reflecting the re-joining of FRY, as well as the gaining of full SEECP participating status by Bosnia and Herzegovina.

After one decade of wars and conflicts that affected the region, our countries have now a new opportunity to contribute with their resources to the common task of bringing enhanced economic and social progress in the entire South East European region. Convinced that promotion of the regional economic cooperation will also contribute the SEECP countries to develop faster and to accelerate their integration processes into the EU, we have adopted today an Action Plan for Regional Economic Cooperation. This document outlines priority areas for regional cooperation where immediate progress is possible, addressing both reforms that our countries are undertaking and the faster economic development of the region.

We have welcomed the results of the SEE Economic Forum held in Skopje on 22nd February 2001, where the Ministers, high ranking government representatives and businessmen from the region have met and discussed the possibilities for further promotion of the economic cooperation within the SEECP.

Convinced that the future of the countries in the region lies in their integration in the European and Euro-Atlantic structures, we have welcomed the fact that now all SEECP countries have been included in the European integration processes. While at different stages, they all strive to achieve the necessary progress, assisted by the European Union. Acting in solidarity, we believe that regional cooperation in SEE will promote these processes.

Enhanced cooperation in overcoming and resolution of the remaining issues and problems, in the spirit of equality and mutual understanding, contributes to the strengthening of good-neighborly relations, security and stability in the region. In this context, we have noted with satisfaction the signing of the Agreement on Delineation of the Border between the two countries by the Presidents Trajkovski and Kostunica.

We have stressed the importance of the Stability Pact, as a means of strengthening peace, democracy, cooperation and economic development thus enhancing the European and Euro-Atlantic processes. The inclusion of the FRY in the Stability Pact will make it possible for the Pact to reach its full potential. Expressing our high appreciation for the efforts of the Stability Pact Special Coordinator, Mr. Bodo Hombach, as well as our expectations with respect to the prompt implementation of the already selected projects from the Quick Start package within the three Stability Pact Working Tables, we have underlined the need for convening a Second Regional Funding Conference, to take place in the first half of 2001, preferably in Bucharest as proposed by the Romanian Government.

Reaffirming our support to the democratic processes in FRY, as expressed at the SEECP Informal Summit held in October 2000 in Skopje, we welcomed the commitment of FRY to pursue further the policy of democratic reforms, reconciliation and readiness for cooperation with the International Community, European institutions, as well as within the region and with its neighbors. We support the authorities and people of FRY in continuing their efforts towards the achievement of full democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law, respect for and protection of minorities rights, market economy reforms, regional cooperation, and compliance with obligations under the Dayton/Paris Peace Agreement and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, including cooperation with ICTY. The progress in implementation will open new prospects for peace and stability in South-Eastern Europe.

We have confirmed our support for the full and consistent implementation of the UNSCR 1244, as well as for the continued action jointly carried out by UNMIK and KFOR to that end. We underline our full support to the efforts of the UN Secretary General Special Representative for Kosovo for accomplishment of his mission including the preparation of all necessary conditions for elections in Kosovo, FRY, in order to create a body composed of democratically elected representatives of all communities. We welcome the commitment of the Yugoslav authorities to respect the provisions of UNSCR 1244 and the Kumanovo Military Technical Agreement. We have strongly condemned the use of violence, terrorism and extremism and any act which makes the co-existence of communities more difficult and which prevents the return of refugees and internally displaced persons. In this context, we have expressed grave concern over the recent waves of ethnically motivated violence and extremism in Kosovska Mitrovica. Furthermore, we welcome the efforts of the International Community and Yugoslav initiative for the start of a positive and constructive political dialogue. We expect that the issues such as release of the political prisoners and missing persons be addressed without delay.

We have strongly condemned the violent and illegal terrorist actions, by the ethnically motivated extremist armed groups in South Serbia, FRY, which could have the effect of destabilizing the situation in the region and we call for an immediate and complete cessation of violence in this area. We welcomed the adoption of the plan by FRY and Serbian Governments with regard to the solution for the situation in the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja in South Serbia. We have considered that international assistance for the economic and social development of this area will constitute a valuable contribution for its stabilization as well as for the overall regional development and for the realization of infrastructure projects.

Reaffirming our conviction that any renegotiation of the federal relationship must be consistent with internal stability of FRY and regional stability of South - Eastern Europe, we have encouraged the Federal and both Republican authorities in their efforts to reach an mutually acceptable agreement through an open and democratic process, avoiding any unilateral action which can jeopardize it.

We considered that the current Romanian Chairmanship in Office of the OSCE reflects SEE's commitment to contribute to the enhancement of the overall security in Europe.

We have expressed our strong political will to continue and enhance the cooperation in combating terrorism, organized crime, corruption, trafficking in people, illicit drugs and arms trafficking, which constitute a threat to the overall security, democratic processes and economic development in South-East Europe.

We have expressed our firm belief that the continuation of the process of NATO enlargement with qualified applicant states in South Eastern Europe will further strengthen regional and Euro-Atlantic security and stability. We have also stressed NATO's security building role in the region through its Southeast Europe Initiative and we expressed our readiness to continue to coordinate efforts in the field of regional defense and security cooperation. We have recognized continued NATO's and other countries' input through KFOR and SFOR for ensuring of peace and security in the region.

We have welcomed the positive development of the Southeast Europe Defense Ministerial (SEDM) process which continues as a valuable framework for regional cooperation in the field of defense and security and for fostering the partnership links with Euro-Atlantic security and defense structures and operations. We encourage early operational readiness of the Multinational Peace Force South Eastern Europe.

We expect a positive input from the results of the forthcoming regular and parallel meetings within the SEECP to be held in March 2001 in Skopje, such as the Conference of the Speakers of Parliaments of South-East Europe, Meeting of Ministers, i.e. Directors of the agencies for youth and sports, then meeting of NGO's from SEE, Meeting of Journalists in SEE and Meeting of the Ministers of Health in SEE.

We have expressed our high appreciation for the activities carried on by our Ministers of Foreign Affairs since the last SEECP Summit in Bucharest, which contributed to a great extent to the promotion of this regional initiative in the international framework. In this context, we have taken note with satisfaction of the further international recognition it received during the years 2000/2001, with the participation in the last OSCE Ministerial Council and other regional and international fora. Furthermore, we have also commended the productive work of the Political Directors and we are looking forward for the continuation of their work in parallel with the further development of the Process.

We have expressed our warm thanks for the hospitality of President Boris Trajkovski in hosting the Skopje Summit Meeting of the South-East European Cooperation Process.

We have decided that the next meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the SEECP participating countries will take place in Tirana at the beginning of year 2002.

FOURTH SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF SEECP PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Skopje, 22-23 February 2001

ACTION PLAN FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Starting with the commitments to promoting good neighborly relations, security, stability and achievement of economic prosperity in the region of Southeast Europe,

Recalling the SEECP Summit and Ministerial declarations, as well as the Charter of Good Neighborly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation in Southeast Europe,

Taking into consideration the level of developed cooperation in the framework of the SEECP as a comprehensive framework directly established by the countries of the region,

Reaffirming the European and Euro-Atlantic orientation of the SEECP countries,

Stressing the commitment to make more effective use of the SEECP as an important resource that will complement and not substitute the individual efforts of the countries towards their rapprochement with the EU,

Convinced that promotion of the regional economic cooperation will contribute the SEECP countries to develop faster and to accelerate their integration processes into the EU,

Having in mind the activities undertaken by the Stability Pact, SECI, BSEC, CEI and other relevant regional initiatives,

Emphasizing the lasting commitment to reforms and cooperation as a necessary condition for the overall development of the SEECP countries and the Region as a whole,

Striving to focus international action for the benefit of Southeastern Europe

the Heads of State and Government of the SEECP countries adopted the following:

Action Plan for Regional Economic Cooperation

The Action Plan focuses on those sectors where considerable synergy could be achieved through coordinated efforts in the framework of the SEECP and aims at:

- Directing the SEECP activities towards the main objectives in the economic field of the regional cooperation;

- Focusing the cooperation on concrete programs, projects and activities that will be initiated, developed and implemented in the short and medium run;

- Identifying concrete priority projects and programs of regional interest and examining the ways and means for their implementation;

- Facilitating the coordination of the SEECP activities with the relevant programs of the European Union, International Financial Institutions and of other regional initiatives.

I. Economic and Social Development and Progress of the Reforms in Southeast Europe

The Heads of State and Government consider that while considerable progress has been made in liberalization and in privatization, progress in structural reforms should be enhanced. They agreed that high priority should be given to the following areas:

- private sector development, improvement of businesses competitiveness, in particular through liberalization of trade, improvement of regulatory environment and strengthening of the financial sector;

- Institutional development and capacity building, through enhancing the public administration efficiency, improving central financial mechanisms, and harmonization of legal and judiciary systems with European standards;

- Transparency and good governance, are crucial for all dimensions of society having a highly relevant impact on economy and contributing to growth, macroeconomic stability and fair competition within the market economy;

- Environmental protection policy, protecting the region's natural resources, especially through the implementation of the sustainable development principle and financing environmental protection projects;

- Social development and social cohesion as an integral part of sound economic development and growth, which contribute to the reduction of poverty and social

exclusion and will facilitate the integration of SEECP countries into the political and economic mainstream of Europe.

II. Trade Development

The Heads of State and Government reaffirm their conviction that further liberalization of trade, undertaken also by the countries of the region, will better serve their national economies. They welcome the decision of the EU for the unilateral preferential measures offered to the SAP countries.

Stressing the importance of intensive trade development as a significant factor for accelerated economic growth of the region, the SEECP countries will continue:

- to undertake structural reforms needed to support the overall trade liberalization;

- to strengthen the process of trade liberalization among the SEECP countries and with the EU;

- to undertake concrete coordinated initiatives and steps directed at creating the necessary conditions for:

  - Improvement and facilitation of the movement of persons, goods and services across the borders in the SEECP region;

  - Improved personnel management of border crossings, harmonization of border procedures, according to the international standards and especially those of the EU and the WTO, optimizing the use of existing and developing new facilities. Further approximation of legislation will be carried out where needed;

  - Reduction of the costs for trade and transport;

  - Strengthening regional partnerships aiming at promoting regional trade;

  - Prevention of smuggling and corruption in the field of trade;

  - Conclusion of Free Trade Agreements among the countries in the region in compliance with WTO rules and in accordance with the processes relevant to each country's individual relationship with the EU;

  - Decrease of non-tariff measures that hinder trade in commodities;

  - Adoption of rules of origin according to the WTO provisions;

  - Closer cooperation in the banking sector and harmonization with the international banking system;

- Support of the accession process of all SEECP countries to the WTO.

In this context, they suggested the Ministers of Trade to hold regular meetings and to work jointly towards achieving these goals. At the same time, intensive cooperation within the framework of the Balkan Regional Center for Trade Promotion in Ankara should be enhanced to further develop the economic and commercial cooperation among the SEECP countries.

Contributions from the Association of Balkan Chambers, Unions of Chambers of Commerce, as well as business associations, which have a longstanding experience in promoting trade in the region, are highly appreciated.

III. Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment

The Heads of State and Government consider that sustained economic development can be achieved only with a stable and safe environment for the private sector. In this context, they emphasize the need for creation of a secure and transparent legal investment framework in the SEECP region, including adequate protection of property rights, fair and non-discriminating taxation, market based competition and transparent administrative practices.

In addition, they stressed the importance that the SEECP countries attach to the implementation of the Stability Pact Investment Compact.

The Heads of State and Government underlined the need for SME development based on the improved business environment, that represents a key objective for all SEECP countries. Furthermore, there is a need for effective strategies to promote SME in the region that will tackle the areas of finance, improvement of the business environment and the strengthening of SME support network. At the same time, they gave their support to the Coordination Group of the OECD within the framework of the Stability Pact Working Table II and its efforts for the finalization of the road map with the active participation of public, private and civil society institutions, and encourage the activities carried out at the OECD Private Sector Development Center in Istanbul.

They called upon the Ministers in charge of the investment and SME issues of the SEECP countries to hold regular meetings in order to coordinate their joint efforts for accomplishing these objectives. The financial contribution from the international community will be also necessary to that end.

IV. Infrastructure Development

The Heads of State and Government are convinced that the overall economic growth and prosperity in the SEECP region is impossible without comprehensive activities for rehabilitation, construction and interconnection of the regional infrastructure. A

developed transport, energy, telecommunication and water infrastructure is essential to the free movement of persons and trade, as well as to the enhancement of social cohesion and integration. In light of the Second Regional Funding Conference under the Stability Pact, planned for later this year, they stressed the SEECP readiness to work with donor agencies and the international financial institutions to implement regional strategies that address our most pressing infrastructure requirements. They underlined their commitment to formulating project proposals that are part of overall strategic approaches dedicated to developing infrastructure networks of regional impact and importance.

1. Transport

The Heads of State and Government consider that the SEECP countries should take full advantage of the conclusions drawn by the European Agencies and Programs, International Organizations and IFI's, in order to attract the necessary funding to existing transport sector projects in particular to those related to the development of the Pan -European Transport Corridors. Aiming at developing regional transport infrastructure as an integral and inseparable part of the Pan-European Transport Network, they also consider the construction of lacking elements of national transport networks and the establishment of transport interconnections with neighbouring countries, to be a task of prior significance.

The Heads of State and Government consider that within this framework the SEECP is capable to give its contribution to bringing more benefit from the multi-country approaches in the Transport Sector, in particular through:

- Identification and harmonization of regional investment and development programs;

- Identifying investment needs and establishment of their utilization dynamics;

- Preparation of commercially footed investment projects which take into account both national and regional interests.

- Exploring the means of providing investment funds through public-private sector cooperation

With reference to different modes of transport, the Heads of States and Government made the following considerations:

a) Roads – Having in mind that the road network in the region is mostly in poor condition, priority should be given to rehabilitation of the existing highways and to construction of new highway lanes.

b) Railways - The restructuring and opening to the private sector of these technical-technological systems could provide for efficient management and cost-effective operations, what on its part is to contribute to and facilitate the provision of

larger funds aimed at improvement of the quality of services. The modernization of railway lines, as well as the establishment of interconnections between the rail networks of SEECP countries is a matter of basic importance. For this purpose they should coordinate their strategies for national development and applications for funding from IFI's.

c) Maritime and transport by inland waterways. - Being aware of the state of river and maritime ports in the region, the Heads of State and Government asserted that efforts should be directed towards ports' rehabilitation, construction of new terminals and introduction of modern information and telecommunication technologies.

- The rapid implementation of the project concerning the clearance of the Danube river - an issue of paramount importance for some of the countries in the region - is in line with the enhanced regional cooperation the SEECP countries are striving for.

2. Telecommunications

SEECP gives high priority to the establishment of a legal and regulatory framework, including with reference to the Information Technology, that encourages and provides long-term support for investments. These instruments of reform policy include the progressive opening of different segments of the telecom market, facilitating private investment, including in the area presently controlled by the state monopoly operators.

The Heads of State and Government suggested to cooperate with the other regional initiatives working on similar matters to prevent time consuming duplications and convening of regular meetings of the Ministers of Transport and Communications in order that concrete projects of wider regional interest are defined.

3. Energy

The Heads of State and Government consider that the availability of reliable and low cost sources of energy is essential for the rapid and sustainable economic development of the overall SEECP region. A coordinated approach to energy supply offers significant advantages in terms of improved utilization of existing production capacities, as well as in optimizing future investment and stimulating use of alternative energy sources. This approach provides significant benefits from increased consistency and quality of supply, reduced environmental damage and electricity trade opportunities. It could enable optimized investment decisions to be made for gas as well as for pipeline networks.

Taking into account the difficulties to raise adequate funding from traditional sources, the Heads of State and Government stressed that it will be important to make progress in the commercialization of utilities and also in private investment in funding infrastructure development.

Having in mind the cooperation so far within the Process, as well as work done by the other regional fora, they took note for the forthcoming meeting of the Ministers in charge for energy issues, to be held in Athens.

Taking into consideration the present situation and urgent needs of some countries of the region, they underlined the necessity of re-establishment of the interconnection of high voltage electrical transmission lines within the region and with UCTE.

V. Combating Organized Crime and Corruption

The Heads of State and Government are committed to comprehensive and decisive measures to combat corruption. Furthermore, they are committed to promoting the cooperation in the fields of justice, combat against organized crime, elimination of terrorism, illicit drugs, arms and human trafficking. In this context, it is suggested that the competent Ministers of the SEECP countries hold regular annual meetings with the aim of discussing problems arising from the illicit activities and to take concrete actions for their prevention. To this end, the SEECP countries are fully committed to work towards fulfilling the Stability Pact Organized Crime Initiative and Stability Pact Anti-Corruption Initiative. They fully support the SECI Bucharest Regional Center for Combating Transborder Crime and they agreed on the importance of the full involvement of the EU institutions in order to achieve full compatibility of the Center's activities with the EU acquis.

VI. Environment

The Heads of State and Government are committed to coordinate the efforts to protect the environment. The need for this in the future will become evermore increasing, having in mind the increasing needs for clean drinking water, provision of healthy food and qualitative living conditions for the population. Further qualitative development of environmental protection, based on the sustainability principle, will be stimulated through foreign investments, in the form of donations, direct or joint investments, and by stimulating the domestic financial potential.

In this context, it is suggested to organize regular meetings of Ministers of Environment, in order to have prompt information exchange, coordinate joint efforts in prevention policy, conclusion of bilateral and regional agreements and concrete realization of cross border projects in this field.

Furthermore, for purposes of realization of projects on promotion of cooperation in the field of environment, it is suggested to consider the necessity of establishing an information exchange system for environmental monitoring in the regional context.

After a decade of conflicts, the issue of environmental rehabilitation is of paramount importance. There is an urgent need to address the most affected parts of the area. Public concern further underline this necessity. An integrated assessment is needed involving the opinion of various international agencies, including a specific roles for

the European Agency for the Environment, UNEP and WHO. The Heads of State and Government took note with interest of the Greek proposal for establishing of a joint EU-SEECP-UN working group charged with environmental monitoring. They stressed the importance of international financial support for environmental rehabilitation. Accordingly, they mandated the MFA's to further pursue the issue.

VII. Transfrontier Cooperation

The Heads of State and Government encouraged the creation of Euroregions in South East Europe, in cooperation with the Council of Europe and the Stability Pact.

They considered that cooperation between regions situated on either side of a border is important for the economic, cultural and social development of the regions concerned, as well as for the protection of the cultural heritage and the environment. The creation of Prespa Park illustrated the benefits of such cooperation for all countries of the region.

The Heads of State and Government called upon the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to further examine the possibility to deepen the cooperation in this field.

VIII. Implementation and Monitoring

The Heads of State and Government tasked the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to formulate proposals for monitoring the implementation of the activities foreseen in the Action Plan.

United Nations S/2001/173

Security Council

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26 February 2001
English
Original: French

Letter dated 26 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the Republic of Guinea is following, with particular interest, the development of the draft resolution on sanctions currently being discussed by the Security Council.

The Government of the Republic of Guinea would like to recall that this draft resolution was introduced following the issuance of the report of the Panel of Experts on the links between conflict diamonds and arms trafficking in Sierra Leone (S/2000/1195).

During the debate on this report, the Government of Guinea had the honour to express its views on this excellent report, which rightly implicates the Liberian authorities in arms trafficking in Sierra Leone and in the subregion. This trafficking is fuelled by the diamonds being fraudulently exploited by the Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

As in Angola, the illicit exploitation of mineral resources is today an important means by which rebel movements supply themselves with arms.

According to the Panel of Experts, it is this link which must be broken in Sierra Leone, a martyred country which continues to suffer the myriad consequences of a war supported by Liberia.

The recent rebel attacks on Guinea's borders by rebel groups from Liberia and Sierra Leone are part of this logic of destabilization of the countries of the subregion, which has been organized by the Government of Liberia and the RUF rebels.

In the view of the Guinean Government, the imposition of sanctions against Liberia is justified much more by the recommendations of the Panel of Experts than by the rebel attacks against the Republic of Guinea, as a means of ending the suffering of the people of Sierra Leone.

This position of the Guinean Government was reaffirmed at the recent meeting in Conakry, on 16 February 2001, between the current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Mr. Alpha Oumar Konaré, and President Lansana Conté.

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The Guinean Government considers that any attempt by ECOWAS to delay or prevent the adoption of sanctions against Liberia will perpetuate the Sierra Leone conflict and encourage the rebel groups operating in the subregion.

Conversely, it believes that the draft resolution, in its current form (Rev.6), will be a means of determining whether or not the authorities of Monrovia are willing to end their support for the RUF rebels.

The adoption of the draft resolution will also help reinforce the efforts of ECOWAS to restore a definitive and lasting peace in West Africa.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) François L. **Fall**
Ambassador

United Nations S/2001/174

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 February 2001
English
Original: French

Letter dated 26 February 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey our most sincere congratulations on the successful meetings of the Security Council, held on 21 and 22 February 2001, with the participation of the Political Committee of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement.

My Government welcomes the unanimous adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1341 (2001) of 22 February 2001, in that it is an important step in accelerating the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and restoring the lasting peace that the Congolese people desire with all their hearts.

My Government assures you that it will fully respect the relevant provisions of Security Council resolution 1341 (2001) of 22 February 2001. In the interests of transparency, it would be grateful if you would have the disengagement and redeployment plan signed at Kampala on 8 April 2000, together with the disengagement and redeployment sub-plans adopted at Harare on 6 December 2000, circulated among the States Members of the United Nations to enable them to witness the sincere desire of all parties to implement them fully and effectively.

My Government takes this opportunity to reaffirm its position on the following critical issues:

1. Inter-Congolese dialogue

As an essential forum for the reconciliation of the Congolese people, the inter-Congolese dialogue must be protected from any outside interference. What is at stake is the sovereignty and political independence of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is in fact guaranteed by the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirmed by article III, paragraph 15, of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement. No link whatsoever may be established, therefore, between the inter-Congolese dialogue on the one hand, whose purpose is national reconciliation, and, on the other hand, the disengagement and orderly withdrawal of foreign troops, which are actions not only provided for in the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement but also aimed, respectively, at the effective cessation of hostilities and the settlement of the conflict internationally.

My Government reaffirms its commitment to organizing an open dialogue under the aegis of the Facilitator, Sir Ketumile Masire, who has been invited to

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Kinshasa by Major General Joseph Kabila, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to consider practical ways and means of improving the facilitation process.

My Government is also committed to pursuing the current consultations with all the *forces vives*, both within and outside the country, with the aim of holding the dialogue in the near future.

Just as the international community calls on the Democratic Republic of the Congo to move resolutely forward towards dialogue, it would be only fair that the international community should call on Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda to report on the progress each has made in establishing and consolidating a national consensus.

2. Disengagement

Any attempt by the parties to disengage otherwise than in accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1341 of 22 February 2001 should be interpreted as an act of bad faith intended to interfere with the process and should be sanctioned under Articles 39 to 42 of the Charter of the United Nations.

3. Deployment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC)

My Government shares the Political Committee's concerns about the new operational concept of MONUC, which provides for a phased deployment and a reduction in the number of United Nations troops. My Government reiterates, nonetheless, its willingness and commitment to cooperate closely with MONUC and provide the necessary security in accordance with the status-of-forces agreement.

My Government invites MONUC to become more involved in the monitoring of the disengagement process and to rapidly deploy its forces, without prejudice to the relevant provisions of Security Council resolution 1291 (2000) of 24 February 2000, to maintain the effectiveness of the cessation of hostilities.

4. Co-location of MONUC and the Joint Military Commission (JMC)

The co-location in Kinshasa has been decided at all levels of the Joint Military Commission (JMC) of the Political Committee, and at the highest level during the most recent Lusaka summit meeting.

My Government feels that the concern expressed by some parties in connection with the security of the members is not justifiable, since in the past Kinshasa has welcomed, in complete security, certain JMC members from the opposition party in Uganda and from the Rassemblement Congolais pour la démocratie (RCD)-Kisangani.

In any event, my Government has solemnly pledged to guarantee the safety of all members of JMC, in collaboration with MONUC.

5. Security concerns of neighbouring countries

My Government believes that it cannot be held responsible for the armed groups that have come from Rwanda following the internal arguments in that country.

Nevertheless, in demonstration of its good faith, my Government would remind the Council that it has already opened fruitful talks on this issue with neighbouring Burundi.

Following the meeting in Washington, D.C., between Their Excellencies President Kabila and President Kagame, my Government believes that the same approach could be envisaged, with the assistance of the international community, in order to tackle the issue of the former Rwandan armed forces members (ex-FAR) and the Interahamwe which Rwanda keeps bringing up as a pretext for the aggression.

My Government is, moreover, convinced that the deployment of MONUC forces along the common borders with Rwanda, starting with the towns of Goma and Bukavu, is an appropriate response to Rwanda's security problems and those of all countries in the region, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and can establish a climate of trust among all our countries.

6. Respect for human rights

On the basis of the reports of humanitarian organizations and that of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, my Government deplores, inter alia:

- All the violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including the atrocities committed in the occupied provinces against the civilian population;
- The dramatic increase in the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among the Congolese inhabitants of the occupied provinces, which is a direct result of the aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- The direct involvement of Uganda in the outbreak and continuation of inter-ethnic fighting between the Hema and the Lendu in Ituri, and the forced recruitment and deportation of Congolese children to Uganda.

7. Provision of humanitarian aid

My Government vehemently condemns any type of impediment to the free movement of humanitarian organizations bringing needed aid to the distressed populations in the occupied eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

My Government reiterates its promise to cooperate unfailingly, to provide security and to allow free movement of humanitarian staff wherever there is need.

8. Kisangani

My Government would draw the Security Council's attention to the fact that, contrary to paragraph 3 of its resolution 1304 (2000) of 16 June 2000, and as is evident from paragraph 29 of the sixth report of the Secretary-General on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Ugandan and Rwandan forces and the forces of the so-called armed opposition have not withdrawn immediately and completely from Kisangani and are not respecting the demilitarization of the city and its environs.

What is more, paragraph 14 of that same resolution has not begun to be implemented. My Government asks the Security Council to insist that the Ugandan and Rwandan Governments make reparation for the loss of life and property damage they have inflicted on the civilian population not only of Kisangani, but of the entire Democratic Republic of the Congo as a result of their aggression, and to request the Secretary-General to submit to the Council an assessment of the damage caused throughout the Congolese territory as a basis for such reparations.

9. **Illegal exploitation of natural resources and other forms of wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

My Government has already cooperated fully with the panel of experts investigating the illegal exploitation of natural and other resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in violation of its national sovereignty.

My Government encourages the aggressor countries to follow suit and expresses the hope that, should their responsibility be established, exemplary sanctions in keeping with the crime will be imposed on them by way of example.

My Government requests that you have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Minister Counsellor

United Nations A/ES-10/60–S/2001/175

General Assembly
Security Council

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27 February 2001

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 27 February 2001 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Yesterday, 26 February 2001, the spokesman for the so-called Jewish settlement movement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip called for the assassination of President Yasser Arafat. Mr. Yehoshua Mor-Yosef said, "Arafat is an enemy. He never was a partner. After seven years of war and him sending his own people to kill, we need to assassinate him." The spokesman also stated that his views reflect those of the Settlers' Council, an umbrella group for illegal settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which has established links with the Israeli Ministry of Defense and the office of the Prime Minister and is largely financed by the Israeli Government. Similar provocative statements calling for President Arafat's assassination were also made yesterday by Mr. Shlomo Filber, the secretary-general of the above-mentioned Council.

Israeli settlers, who have been illegally transferred by the occupying Power to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, in grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and in total violation of relevant Security Council resolutions, and their actions remain the exclusive responsibility of the occupying Power. Needless to say, these recent statements and their potentially serious repercussions take their illegal and immoral presence in the Occupied Territory to a new level of incitement and hostility, for which we hold the Israeli Government fully responsible.

Further, in follow-up to my previous letters to you, dated from 29 September 2000 to 21 February 2001 (A/55/432-S/2000/921; A/55/437-S/2000/930; A/55/450-S/2000/957; A/55/466-S/2000/971; A/55/474-S/2000/984; A/55/490-S/2000/993; A/ES-10/39-S/2000/1015; A/ES-10/40-S/2000/1025; A/ES-10/42-S/2000/1068; A/ES-10/43-S/2000/1078; A/ES-10/44-S/2000/1093; A/ES-10/45-S/2000/1104; A/ES-10/46-S/2000/1107; A/ES-10/47-S/2000/1116; A/ES-10/48-S/2000/1129; A/ES-10/49-S/2000/1154; A/ES-10/50-S/2000/1173; A/ES-10/51-S/2000/1185;

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A/ES-10/52-S/2000/1206; A/ES-10/53-S/2000/1247; A/ES-10/54-S/2001/7; A/ES-10/55-S/2001/33; A/ES-10/56-S/2001/50; A/ES-10/57-S/2001/101; A/ES-10/58-S/2001/131; and A/ES-10/59-S/2001/156), I wish to draw your attention to the continuing Israeli military campaign being waged against the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem. Since my last letter to you on 21 February 2001, three more Palestinian civilians, including a 15-year-old boy, have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces. (The names of the three martyrs are contained in the annex to the present letter.) These killings bring the total number of Palestinians killed by the occupying forces to 361 martyrs.

In closing, it should be emphasized that the occupying Power's continued killing and injuring of Palestinian civilians in its brutal military campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, as well as its obvious assassination policy and the escalating incitement and provocation mentioned above, are grave issues, to which we believe the international community must give serious attention. Such attention should aim at bringing an end to these Israeli violations and to providing protection for the Palestinian people.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 27 February 2001 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by Israeli security forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem (Friday, 23 February through Monday, 26 February 2001)

Friday, 23 February 2001

Raed Mahmoud Hussein Mousa

Sunday, 25 February 2001

Mohammed Eissa Al-Jalad

Monday, 26 February 2001

Hussam Imad El-Deesy (15 years old)

United Nations S/2001/176

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 February 2001

Original: English

Letter dated 27 February 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter from the Honourable Dr. Sama Banya, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone dated 24 February 2001, concerning a unilateral action taken by the Government of Liberia within the Roberts Flight Information Region (RFIR) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sylvester E. **Rowe**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

01-26785 (E) 270201

Annex to the letter dated 27 February 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am constrained to bring the following matter to your attention.

Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone are the three Member Nations of the Roberts Flight Information Region (RFIR).

On 26 January 2001, on the receipt of a report from its Secretary-General that four telecommunications operators (two each from Sierra Leone and Guinea) had been expelled from Liberia by the Liberian Airport Authorities. We sent a note verbale to the Foreign Ministry of Liberia (see enclosure).

While awaiting a response from the Liberian Foreign Ministry, its Ministry of Transport has unilaterally declared that it is taking over control of the operations over its airspace, meaning, of course, that Guinea and Sierra Leone shall have no further connection with the organization.

Considering the current volatile situation within the Mano River Union and considering the recent Expert Panel's report on Liberia's involvement in the illegal trade of Sierra Leone diamonds and other related matters, and considering all the assurances given by the Foreign Minister of Liberia to the United Nations and to ECOWAS, my Government regards the above action as unfriendly and hardly likely to restore confidence in the activities of the Liberia Government.

My Government requests that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sama **Banya**
Minister of Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation

Enclosure

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia and has the honour to inform the latter as follows:

The Government of Sierra Leone has been informed by a report from the Secretary-General of the Roberts Flight Information Region, Elhadj Abou Bakarr Bah, that four telecommunication operators (two each from Sierra Leone and Guinea) have been expelled from Liberia by the Liberian Airport Authorities on 13 January 2001 without any reference to the Protocols of the FIR.

In this regard, the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone wishes to draw the attention of the Liberian Authorities to Article XX, which states, inter alia, "Any dispute of the Robert FIR which cannot be resolved by the Council of Ministers shall be referred to the Head of States for solution".

As the FIR is an international organization governed by accepted obligations, by all the parties, the Government of Sierra Leone strongly hopes that the expulsion of the two Sierra Leoneans would be revoked to avoid further redress on this matter.

Apparently, the Honourable Minister of Transport and Director of Civil Aviation in Liberia are not aware of the expulsion. Consequently, it is advisable that the Honourable Ministers of Transport of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone meet to review the matter.

In anticipation of the cooperation of the Government of Liberia for the continued success of the tripartite organization, the Roberts FIR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia the assurances of its highest consideration.

United Nations S/2001/177

Security Council

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Note by the Secretary General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Security Council the fourth quarterly report of the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), which is submitted in accordance with paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999) of 17 December 1999 (see annex).

01-26791 (E) 280201

Annex

Fourth quarterly report[a] of the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission under paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999)

Introduction

1. The present report, which is the fourth submitted in accordance with paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999), covers the activities of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) during the period from 1 December 2000 to 28 February 2001.

2. More than a year has elapsed since the Council adopted resolution 1284 (1999), by which it decided to establish UNMOVIC. Since Iraq has not yet accepted resolution 1284 (1999), the Commission has not been able to commence the operations in Iraq that are mandated by the Council. In the absence of field operations, much preparatory work for such operations has been done and continues, as described in the present report. The establishment of UNMOVIC and making it operative without relying heavily on voluntary contributions of personnel and equipment from Member States means that very considerable efforts, which were previously made by Member States, notably recruitment and training, have had to be made by the Commission. While this has by no means made the active support of States unimportant, for example in the nomination of potential staff and in providing information, it has kept the Commission intensely engaged. However, in the absence of concrete indications of cooperation by Iraq and the commencement of inspections, it has not seemed reasonable, thus far, to proceed with the costly engagements such as helicopter service contracts or the hiring of a large number of personnel, notably for the field.

Issues considered by the College of Commissioners

3. The fourth plenary session of the College of Commissioners was held in Vienna at the Vienna International Centre, from 21 to 22 February 2001. As on previous occasions, in addition to the members of the College, observers from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) attended.

4. A principal issue before the College was a report on ongoing work by UNMOVIC staff to identify "unresolved disarmament issues", which are to be addressed by the Commission, as prescribed in paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999). The inventory, which will relate to the disarmament requirements set out in section C of resolution 687 (1991), will be of use to the Commission both as a basis for its identification of "key remaining disarmament tasks" to be presented to the Security Council as part of the programme of work (resolution 1284 (1999) para. 7) and for its own understanding of issues which need, more broadly, to be clarified and addressed under the reinforced system of ongoing monitoring and verification in Iraq called for by the Council. Although the inventory must remain provisional until the necessary re-baselining is carried out in Iraq, the Chairman presented to the College the approach and method that UNMOVIC is using in drawing up the inventory. Selected examples of unresolved disarmament issues in each of the three disciplines for which the Commission is responsible (chemical weapons, biological weapons and proscribed missiles) were presented in order to illustrate the manner of their selection and the methodologies and sources that the Commission's experts had used.

5. The College welcomed the efforts of UNMOVIC's staff and, at the same time, requested that further work be undertaken on unresolved disarmament issues, taking into account the different views expressed during the discussion. In so doing, the significance of the unresolved issues should be addressed and an indication given of how these issues might be resolved.

6. A revision and updating of the lists of dual-use items and material to which the export/import monitoring mechanism, approved by the Security Council in its resolution 1051 (1996), applies has been requested by the Council (see para. 18 below). The College was given a briefing on progress to date on this matter.

7. The College also had before it a draft of the UNMOVIC handbook, central parts of which provide guidance for the conduct of inspections in Iraq. The handbook will set out the rights and duties of UNMOVIC staff in the performance of their functions, in accordance with Security Council resolutions, staff regulations and rules and UNMOVIC procedures. It aims at setting professional standards and procedures, responding to the requirements that flow from the Commission's United Nations identity and its international mission. The College had a preliminary exchange of views on the draft before it and encouraged UNMOVIC staff to continue their work with a view to completing the handbook in time for the start of operations in Iraq.

8. A briefing was provided to Commissioners by UNMOVIC staff on the planned use of overhead imagery in support of its work. The College considered that overhead imagery is a complement to on-site inspections and a fundamental component of the instruments available to UNMOVIC for its work. The College welcomed further exploration by UNMOVIC on how it could benefit in the future from the increasing availability of overhead imagery from different sources.

9. Another briefing provided to Commissioners concerned the protection of UNMOVIC information. The College welcomed the work being done by UNMOVIC staff on the protection of UNMOVIC information, balancing the need for security and transparency.

10. In accordance with paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999), the College of Commissioners was consulted on the contents of the present report.

11. The College decided to hold its next session in New York on 21 and 22 May 2001.

Briefings and consultations by the Executive Chairman

12. In the period under review, the Executive Chairman continued his practice of providing monthly briefings to the President of the Security Council. In addition, he has visited the capitals of Austria, France, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and has held consultations with representatives of these Governments. While in Europe he also held consultations with representatives of the Governments of Kuwait and Oman. The support expressed by a large number of Member States for the preparatory work of UNMOVIC has been encouraging. The Commission has not participated in the talks between the Secretary-General and the Government of Iraq aimed at a comprehensive dialogue. However, the Executive Chairman has been kept informed about the preparations for and results of the dialogue. He has also had an opportunity to brief the Secretary-General on how UNMOVIC is preparing itself for its work under Security Council resolution 1284 (1999).

Recruitment

13. Recruitment has taken place for most of the positions needed at the present stage of work for the New York-based core staff, which, at the professional level, now comprises 44 persons, of whom 10 are women, from 21 Member States. The number of qualified individuals seeking to serve with UNMOVIC has been gratifying.

Training

14. The third month-long training course conducted by the Commission commenced in Vienna on 19 February and will end on 23 March 2001. Discipline-specific parts of the course have been organized in Austria, Germany and Sweden. Fifty-two persons, encompassing some 24 nationalities, are taking part. Like previous courses, the current training course covers general lectures on the mandate of UNMOVIC, its rights and obligations, the proscribed weapons programmes of Iraq and discipline-specific training. In addition, in conformity with paragraph 6 of resolution 1284 (1999), participants in the course were provided with training regarding the history, religion and culture of Iraq. With the completion of the third training course, UNMOVIC will have a roster of more than 120 persons trained for work in Iraq.

15. The Commission is grateful to the lecturers at the course, who gave their time without fee, and also to the Governments of Austria, Germany and Sweden, which provided facilities and personnel for health and safety training, as well as visits to sites relevant to the study of various weapons disciplines and technologies. The Commission is also indebted to IAEA and its Iraq

Action Team for the valuable support it provided for this course.

16. Preparations are under way for a fourth UNMOVIC training course to be held in May 2001.

17. In view of the time lapse between the training of potential staff and the actual engagement of such staff, the Commission has continued to provide all trainees with a newsletter on developments concerning UNMOVIC. It has also recently established its own Internet web site, which serves the broader purpose of providing extensive information to all individuals interested in UNMOVIC activities, and making relevant and non-confidential UNMOVIC documents available online.

Other activities

18. The staff of the Commission and experts from IAEA have continued to revise and update the lists of dual-use items and material to which the export/import monitoring mechanism, approved by the Security Council in its resolution 1051 (1996), applies. This task was called for in paragraph 8 of resolution 1284 (1999) and a time frame was set by paragraph 19 of resolution 1330 (2000), requiring completion by 5 June 2001. The Commission's experts held consultations with representatives of interested Member States on the suggested revisions to the chemical and biological lists in New York on 13 and 14 February 2001. The results of the consultations were presented to the College of Commissioners at their meeting in Vienna. Similar consultations with governmental experts are being planned for suggested revisions to the missile list.

19. The joint unit established to operate the export/import monitoring mechanism continues to receive notifications from Member States of supplies to Iraq of dual-use items. The Government of Iraq has however not provided its corresponding notifications as required under Security Council resolution 1051 (1996).

20. The Commission continues to explore the potential use of overhead imagery for its work and has been discussing its requirements with some Member States and commercial providers. While imagery cannot be a substitute for on-site inspection, it can provide a valuable complement to inspection. The Commission is also exploring other new technologies with respect to potential sensor equipment to be deployed in Iraq.

Premises

21. To alleviate the overcrowding in the UNMOVIC premises and to allow recruitment to vacant posts, the Commission has been allocated additional office space on the fourth floor of the Secretariat building, pending a planned move of a number of staff to office space in a nearby building in April 2001.

Conclusions

22. It is clear from the foregoing that UNMOVIC continues to prepare itself for full operations. Useful work has been done. The new staff members are gradually becoming familiar with and are examining the vast documentation accumulated by the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM). Much training has been accomplished and guidance has been worked out in many areas. New information is also coming to UNMOVIC from outside sources. UNMOVIC will be able to assess Iraq's compliance with respect to its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions only when the reinforced system of ongoing monitoring and verification is in operation and there is cooperation by Iraq.

Note

* The Commission's three previous quarterly reports were issued as documents S/2000/516, S/2000/835 and S/2000/1134.

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Security Council

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Letter dated 27 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a note on the position of the Kingdom of Morocco concerning developments in the referendum process in our southern provinces (Western Sahara). I should be grateful if you would have this note distributed to the members of the Security Council and circulated as a document of the Security Council (see annex).

(*Signed*) Ahmed **Snoussi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-26947 (E) 280201 280201

Annex to the letter dated 27 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Following the adoption of the most recent Security Council resolution, the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco would like to provide some clarifications and reaffirm certain truths about the developments with respect to the question of Western Sahara since the adoption of the rules for the referendum. Certain parties are trying to mislead the United Nations and international public opinion in this regard.

To this end, it is important to recall that it was the Kingdom of Morocco, in a gesture of conciliation and goodwill, which proposed the organization of a referendum in a part of its territory which had been occupied by Spain and which was recovered in conformity with international law.

For the implementation of this referendum, the former Secretary-General, Mr Pérez de Cuellar, elaborated a settlement plan which was accepted by the parties and endorsed by the Security Council.

The adoption of the settlement plan was followed by a ceasefire on the ground, which the Kingdom of Morocco has scrupulously respected.

The settlement plan, supplemented by criteria for the identification of Saharans, is based on clear principles which, if strictly applied, would make it possible to hold a democratic and equitable referendum in which all Saharans would participate without discrimination.

Unfortunately, since the beginning of the referendum process, the adversaries of our territorial integrity have waged a virulent campaign against the identification of Saharans who were not in the territory at the time of the 1974 Spanish census, though they are well aware that many Saharans who fought against the Spanish colonists were in northern Morocco and Mauritania, while other Saharans had emigrated for economic reasons.

The Houston Agreements of 1997 were intended to settle, in part, the problem of identifying the tribal groups opposed by the other party. However, contrary to what has recently been claimed, these agreements could never be implemented because of the obstacles created by the other party. It was not until 1999 that the process was reactivated by the Secretary-General's decision in favour of the identification of these Saharans.

However, the other party's practices have rendered this decision meaningless by pursuing the aim, announced from the beginning of the process, of carrying out a restrictive and specially contrived referendum. Accordingly, a near majority of the candidates from these groups have been rejected.

The second agreed principle, that of impartiality, has also been flouted. The Saharans who gave evidence at the most recent debate of the General Assembly's Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and all those who have succeeded in fleeing from the Tindouf camps and returning to Morocco have clearly demonstrated and proved this point, since they once represented the other party at the Identification Commission.

Indeed, the sheikhs who recently changed their position, after having represented the other party at the Identification Commission, have given evidence that they were obligated not to fulfil their sworn duty and to deny their relatives the right to be identified.

Thus, the majority of the Saharan candidates presented for identification by the Moroccan party were rejected by the veto of the sheikhs of the other party, who had instructions to accept only Saharans included in the census. The mass rejection of Saharans residing in the territory led once again to an impasse in the referendum process.

Mr. Baker tried to revive the referendum process by seeking, along with the parties, solutions to the many problems of implementation. Three meetings -- two in London and one in Berlin -- were held for this purpose, but to no avail.

As the Security Council had asked us to try to resolve the multiple problems relating to the implementation of the referendum, we followed our usual practice of proposing logical corrective measures and realistic solutions and objectives with a view to the organization of an equitable and democratic referendum.

Following what were, unfortunately, fruitless efforts by Mr. Baker to find a fair solution to the problem of implementation, *the Security Council asked the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco to help find another solution*. In accordance with this request, contained in the last three resolutions, Morocco undertook, again as a sign of goodwill, to make a fair and sincere contribution.

We repeat that we are prepared to facilitate Mr. Baker's task and to explore further with him any proposals likely to ensure an equitable and lasting political settlement.

It should be added that this is not the first time the United Nations has envisaged another solution to overcome the tremendous problems and obstacles placed in the way of the settlement plan's implementation.

Indeed, Mr. Pérez de Cuellar's successor, Mr. Boutros Ghali, in his first report to the Security Council in February 1992, *had already asked that a new solution should be envisaged*, because of the rejection, by the adversaries of our territorial integrity, of the criteria which the Security Council had adopted for the identification of Saharans.

One year later, the same alternative, in addition to two others, was submitted to the Council to try once again to *overcome the obstacles created* and the systematic obstruction of the application of the identification criteria.

The Kingdom of Morocco recalls that it is, to say the least, unrealistic to attempt to reduce to the appeals process alone the many problems which have hampered the implementation of the settlement plan.

Before resorting to a new alternative, the Secretary-General had made tireless efforts to bring about the implementation of the rules established by the settlement plan and the identification criteria.

As the agreement of the parties was the basis for the plan's implementation, the Council had given Mr. Baker the task of trying to solve the various implementation problems in agreement with the parties. However, despite

considerable effort, it was unfortunately not possible to reach an agreement to reactivate the process.

As requested, Morocco presented, in the various meetings with Mr. Baker, solutions to all the problems encountered, which are not limited to the appeals process, as the Security Council has been officially notified.

Undoubtedly, the appeals constitute one problem, and no agreement has been reached on how to approach them.

Another problem is that of the refugees. No one can doubt the propriety of our demand for their repatriation and release from the camps where they are being held; unfortunately, however, no progress has been made in this regard.

Another problem is that of updating the lists of candidates who have reached the age of 18 and are entitled to vote; but no efforts have been made in this regard.

Yet another problem is that of the prisoners of war, who are treated as slaves and whose release has been sought by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations. However, the other party persists in linking their fate to the outcome of the process.

Lastly, it is necessary to reassess all the prejudices suffered by our candidates, in the light of the overwhelming testimony of the tribal chiefs who have decided to side with Morocco.

All these issues were at stake, without counting the many other problems engendered by the failure to respect the rules. None of these problems even came close to a solution, and the representative of the Secretary-General realized the impossibility of reaching concrete solutions to the logical and objective questions we had raised. This led him to recommend efforts to seek a political settlement.

While there are those who, with a view to holding a specially contrived referendum, are now seeking to reduce the problems in the plan's implementation to a single issue, ignoring the many other issues, the Kingdom of Morocco, for its part, wants to promote a lasting solution for all the members of a population of which one third has lived in torment for 25 years.

Nevertheless, at a time when the United Nations had exhausted all efforts to implement the settlement plan and had begun to seek other options, and on the eve of the Secretary-General's most recent report and of the consideration of developments in the situation, aggressive and hostile comments were made to thwart the efforts of the Secretary-General, Mr. Baker and the Security Council by affirming that war had been declared and that the ceasefire was no longer valid.

The Secretary-General's report duly noted all the aspects of this agitation, including the statements tending to call into question the basis for the referendum and the proven violations of the ceasefire.

We deplore these actions and statements, which have been reported in the press and have further hampered the efforts of the United Nations to seek a new means of ending this artificial conflict and the torment suffered by the refugees detained for more than a quarter of a century.

The Kingdom of Morocco denounces this dynamic of violence and war, which certain parties would like to rekindle at a time when the countries of the region aspire to peace, stability and well-being.

Furthermore, the Kingdom of Morocco is determined to fulfil all its responsibilities and safeguard its national sovereignty and territorial integrity, as it has done for centuries.

Lastly, Morocco reiterates its willingness to continue to cooperate fully with the Security Council, the Secretary-General and Mr. Baker, as announced and affirmed by the highest authorities of the Kingdom of Morocco.

New York, 27 February 2001

United Nations S/2001/179

Security Council

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Letter dated 27 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 17 February 2001 from Mr. Muhammad Zimam Abd al-Razzaq, Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Iraq. The Minister describes the difficulties encountered by the installations operated by the Ministry that are caused by the holds placed on contracts under the memorandum of understanding for items relevant to the Ministry's work that are essential to the provision of potable water and for sanitation and waste disposal services. There are 59 such contracts dating from phase V to phase VIII, and their total value is 168,200,767 dollars.

The Minister expresses the hope that you will take an active role in urging the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) to approve the contracts that are on hold.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-27000 (E) 020301 020301

Annex to the letter dated 27 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We reaffirm the substance of our letter dated 5 July 2000 addressed to you concerning the great difficulties encountered by the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Iraq in performing its functions and providing municipal services to citizens, and most particularly potable water, in all governorates, districts and sub-districts. This is because of the unlawful practices, based on grounds that lack all logic, of the representatives of the United States of America and the United Kingdom in the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) in placing contracts concluded under the memorandum of understanding on hold. All of the contracts placed on hold are nevertheless those most particularly relevant, in humanitarian terms, to the lives of citizens, namely those relevant to access to potable water, the provision of municipal services, the prevention of environmental pollution and sewage disposal, which are basic and minimum requirements for human subsistence.

That the United States and the United Kingdom place humanitarian contracts on hold is a flagrant violation of the most elementary principles of human conduct, a manifest breach of the provisions of international covenants and a gross offence against basic human rights as determined by the United Nations. By means of discriminatory practices that seek narrow political objectives, the principles of human rights have in the hands of the United States and the United Kingdom been transformed into a political weapon, a selective measure governed by double standards and a means of blackmail and political pressure. This undermines the worthy core objectives of concern for human rights.

Sufficient to prove this are the many statements that have been made by the chiefs of United Nations agencies operating in Iraq confirming that the blanket embargo and the thousands of air raids launched against Iraq have denied the Iraqi people its basic human rights. The embargo and the aggression have killed and injured thousands of people and have caused the deaths of more than a million and a half children as well as growing poverty, the spread of unemployment and the deterioration of health services. Such statements have also affirmed that the standard of living of the population of Iraq has fallen below normal levels since the embargo was imposed and that the capacity of the health care system to function has declined because of shortages of water and electric power, lack of transport and the collapse of the communications system. Waterborne contagious diseases have, moreover, become part of an established pattern in the alarming health situation in Iraq.

There are 59 contracts relevant to the work of the Ministry that have been placed on hold by the Committee and their total value is 168,200,767 dollars. All of them relate to water and sanitation, a basic sector and one of special importance. The holds placed on them give rise to serious risks of epidemics among citizens as a result of accumulated refuse, failure to clear blockages in sanitation systems, the difficulty of purifying water of contaminants and pollutants, the failure to maintain waterworks and repair leaks in old piping, the disuse of water treatment compact units because the necessary chemicals are not available, the impossibility of transporting workers to sites, the absence of communications with and between plant sites and pumping and booster stations and the inability to cope with emergencies. The situation is even worse when it is noted that most water and

sanitation systems in Iraq are old and have become unserviceable. They have been out of service for many years. I am sending you herewith a schedule giving details of the contracts that are on hold (see enclosure).

It is clear from the schedule of contracts on hold that all of them are relevant to the provision of water to citizens and that their purpose is humanitarian. This fact means that procrastination or delay cannot be permitted. The schedule also shows the serious risks to citizens that have been created by the malicious policy being pursued by the United States and British aggressors. This policy is pursued in implementation of a hostile scheme to turn the economic embargo into an instance of genocide, and this necessarily entails legal accountability under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide approved by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.

What makes matters even worse and makes the work of the Ministry even more difficult is that, despite the small number of Ministry contracts and the limited range of items sought, these contracts are largely on hold and only a tiny number of them have been fulfilled. Those placed on hold have been the most important and the most relevant to the lives of citizens, who are in the most pressing need of the items ordered. Is it possible to imagine the condition in which Iraqis live as a result of this situation? They are deprived of any draught of potable water, of any wholesome sustaining morsel, of any fully healthy life. Children drink contaminated water. Epidemics encompass the entire daily life of the people. This is truly a catastrophe such as mankind has never seen, and it is an affront to humanity. All fair and honest people must rise up against it and must confront the demon, ward off its evil belligerence and end its hidden machinations against a people that has suffered bitterly and on which it has placed a heavy burden under the cover of the United Nations. The malicious practices that follow on United States and British policy are based on incoherent political considerations that are hostile to the people of Iraq.

The genocidal crimes and gross violations of international humanitarian law that are being committed against the people of Iraq with an arrogance prompted by an obtuse and unfeeling conscience have been clearly perceived by the world. It has expressed condemnation and anger for the holds constantly placed on contracts by the United States and the United Kingdom. The tendentious political motives that underlie this practice have become obvious to the world. Despite this fact, it seems that in its resolution 1330 (2000) the Security Council can only urge the Committee "to review applications in an expeditious manner" and "to decrease the level of applications on hold", rather than have it devise a radical solution. For reasons that are flimsy at best, the Council does not name the two countries that are placing contracts on hold.

To ignore Iraq's rights and wishes and its freedom to invest its wealth to serve its people and secure its subsistence requirements is to violate the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966. This cannot be a matter of indifference, and it cannot be accepted or passed over in silence given Iraq's commitment to the exalted principles and worthy purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the country's respect for its association with the Organization as a body concerned with matters such as prompted Iraq to join it, to adhere to its principles and to maintain active membership. We can assure you that impeding the fulfilment of the contracts in question will have extremely adverse and dangerous consequences for the efforts

of the Ministry to provide water and municipal and sanitation services, to combat epidemics and to cope with pollution as well as for the efforts of our agencies to perform duties that are important to the lives of citizens.

We hope that you will take an active and fruitful role in urging the Committee to approve the contracts that are on hold and thus restore confidence in the mission of the United Nations and in its humanitarian purposes.

(*Signed*) Muhammad Zimam **Abd al-Razzaq**
Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Iraq

Enclosure
Contracts on hold in the water and sanitation sector

Phase	*Number*	*Item*	*Date registered*	*Date placed on hold*	*Value (dollars)*
V	50877	Spare parts for water treatment compact units	08/06/99	07/10/99	909 450
V	501232	Well pumps	08/11/99	17/11/99	305 000
V	50932	Cranes	17/06/99	07/10/99	5 680 000
V	501145	Water hammer system	10/08/99	11/11/99	1 300 000
V	50845	Chlorine gas	28/05/99	11/06/99	975 000
VI	601433	Electrical equipment	04/01/00	10/04/00	3 050 000
VI	600769	Water treatment compact unit	02/11/99	5/10/00	12 600 000
VI	601786	Sewer-cleaning equipment	09/11/98	22/07/00	1 062 006
VI	601647	Pumps	28/01/00	30/10/00	78 000
VI	601645	Miscellaneous valves	28/01/00	28/11/00	28 870
VI	600832	Fire-fighting vehicles	12/11/99	10/12/00	9 780 000
VI	601797	Ventilators	10/04/00	28/11/00	19 200
VI	600701	Chlorinators	27/10/99	17/11/99	1 700 000
VI	601540	Alum dosing pumps	18/01/00	26/04/00	675 000
VI	601783	Aluminium hydroxide	30/03/00	20/11/00	965 000
VI	601655	Precision instruments	07/02/00	30/11/00	174 075
VI	601615	Special valves	07/02/00	01/12/00	40 082
VI	601616	Special pumps	28/01/00	15/08/00	494 585
VI	601646	Anodes and cell covers	28/01/00	27/11/00	456 800
VI	601868	Compressors	07/07/00	08/12/00	447 510
VII	701950	Computers	18/08/00	08/09/00	1 950 000
VII	701576	Truck with crane	25/07/00	15/08/00	1 770 000
VII	701973	Equipment	21/08/00	01/10/00	21 780 000
VII	701586	Equipment for town sewer project	25/07/00	05/09/00	3 500 000
VII	701584	Equipment for Nasiriyah sewer project	25/07/00	08/09/00	2 750 000
VII	702469	Equipment	16/11/00	29/11/00	60 000
VII	[?]	Electrical and mechanical equipment for water treatment compact units	14/08/00	08/09/00	5 370 000
VII	701202	Chlorine booster pumps	22/06/00	03/08/00	2 350 000
VII	700798	Hoses	10/05/00	18/05/00	400 000
VII	702243	Aluminium hydroxide	29/09/00	17/10/00	2 999 997
VII	700920	Low loaders	31/05/00	09/06/00	5 280 000
VII	702284	Measuring gauges	02/10/00	15/12/00	1 913 001
VII	701566	Fire engine — command	20/07/00	15/12/00	1 060 000
VII	701526	Fire engine — command	18/07/00	04/08/00	1 060 000
VII	702332	Raw materials	06/10/00	27/11/00	720 930
VII	702424	Breathing apparatus	06/11/00	04/12/00	423 000

Phase	*Number*	*Item*	*Date registered*	*Date placed on hold*	*Value (dollars)*
VII	702333	Command vehicles	06/10/00	08/11/00	825 000
VII	701321	Spare parts	06/07/00	01/08/00	590 000
VII	700712	Electrical equipment	27/04/00	03/07/00	3 286 685
VII	700713	Electrical equipment	27/04/00	05/07/00	4 380 582
VII	702007	Tanker trucks	23/08/00	12/09/00	500 000
VII	701748	Tanker trucks	07/08/00	22/08/00	2 310 000
VII	702511	Air compressors	04/12/00	12/12/00	22 555
VII	701839	Laboratory equipment	14/08/00	01/09/00	420 000
VII	702331	Water treatment compact unit	06/10/00	18/10/00	12 570 000
VII	701609	Well pumps	27/07/00	11/08/00	680 000
VII	701072	Chlorine gas	31/05/00	01/10/00	2 695 000
VII	702462	Vehicles	14/11/00	25/11/00	3 140 000
VII	702364	Fire-fighting vehicles	11/10/00	25/10/00	1 750 000
VII	702365	Fire-fighting vehicles	11/10/00	25/10/00	5 836 000
VII	702349	Fire-fighting vehicles	10/10/00	21/11/00	2 075 000
VII	701057	Well-boring equipment	31/05/00	30/06/00	12 000 000
VIII	800796	Booster pumps	28/11/00	04/12/00	1 223 516
VIII	800626	Vehicles	06/11/00	14/11/00	2 378 001
VIII	800882	Vehicles	30/11/00	12/12/00	935 000
VIII	801066	Electricity cables	10/12/00	26/12/00	2 415 000
VIII	800207	Aluminium hydroxide	27/09/00	20/10/00	1 499 922
VIII	800979	Graders	08/12/00	31/12/00	2 706 000
VIII	800941	Dump truck	05/12/00	15/12/00	13 530 000

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General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 40
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Note verbale dated 28 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to transmit herewith a letter from Farouk Al-Shara', Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic, addressed to the Secretary-General concerning the situation in the Syrian village of Alghajar in the Syrian Occupied Golan (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present note verbale and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

01-27156 (E) 020301 060301

Annex to the note verbale dated 28 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

The question of the partition of the Syrian village of Ghajar in the occupied Syrian Golan has continued to be of great popular concern in the Syrian Arab Republic, inasmuch as the Israeli occupation authorities have recently begun to bring the greatest pressure to bear on the inhabitants of the village for the construction of a barbed-wire fence along the Blue Line that was drawn by the United Nations and that had the result of dividing the village. The inhabitants of the village, our citizens, are resisting this pressure, and they reject the building of any barbed-wire fence that divides their village regardless of the pretexts used or the reasons given.

The village of Ghajar is a sensitive issue and something more than a humanitarian one. The inhabitants of the village have stated unequivocally that they were born as Syrians and that they will remain Syrians in all circumstances. They are a single family and their fields lie around the village. They cannot consent to the partition of their village and only wish to live together in harmony, concord and unity.

We raised this matter with you at our meeting in Damascus on 23 June 2000, and you promised to hold the necessary consultations in its regard.

In our view, the United Nations must preserve the unity of Ghajar, given that it is an occupied Syrian village; no forces must enter it other than United Nations forces; and it should remain under the control of United Nations forces, as an interim solution, pending Israel's implementation of Security Council resolution 242 (1967) and the evacuation of the Israeli occupation forces from the occupied Syrian Golan and their withdrawal to the line of 4 June 1967.

We hope and trust that the matter will receive your full attention and that you will make every effort in its regard in the context of your endeavours for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region.

(*Signed*) Farouk **Al-Shara'**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic
Damascus, 21 February 2001

United Nations S/2001/181

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 February 2001
English
Original: French

Letter dated 26 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement concerning the formation of a new Council of Ministers in Bosnia and Herzegovina issued on 22 February 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Pierre **Schori**
Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations

01-26983 (E) 280201 280201

Annex to the letter dated 26 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the formation of a new Council of Ministers in Bosnia and Herzegovina issued on 22 February 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union (EU) welcomes the formation of a new Council of Ministers in Bosnia and Herzegovina today. The EU expresses its hope that this will be the reform-oriented Government that Bosnia and Herzegovina needs more than five years after the signing of the Dayton/Paris accords and nearly four months after the last elections.

The EU calls on the new Council of Ministers to undertake, without delay, the serious reforms required to improve the social and economic situation in the country, and to work for the benefit of all people in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Union also urges the new Government to take action to fulfil, by the middle of 2001, all the conditions laid down in the "EU road map" drawn up last spring, thus, as recalled at the Zagreb Summit, enabling Bosnia and Herzegovina to move forward on the path towards European integration. The EU stands ready to assist in these efforts.

The Union calls on all political parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to respect the results of the elections, and expects no further delay in the formation of governments at all other levels or in the process of electing delegates to the House of Peoples at the federal and state levels.

The EU expresses its continued support to the High Representative in his endeavours to support the implementation of the Dayton Paris accords.

United Nations S/2001/182

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 February 2001

Original: English

Letter dated 27 February 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Please find attached the resolution adopted by the Summit Conference of Leaders and Heads of State of the Community of Sahel Saharan States (CEN-SAD) on the Lockerbie case (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mubarak Hussein **Rahmtalla**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative

01-26972 (E) 280201

Annex to the letter dated 27 February 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Resolution adopted by the Summit Conference of Leaders and Heads of State of the Community of Sahel Saharan States (CEN-SAD) on the Lockerbie case

The Leaders and Heads of State of the Community of Sahel Saharan States (CEN-SAD), meeting in Khartoum, Republic of the Sudan, on the occasion of the third session of their Summit, held on 12 and 13 February 2001,

Having reviewed the stages of the so-called Lockerbie case, in particular the political verdict pronounced by the Scottish Court at Camp Zeist,

Recalling the previous resolutions of the Community of Sahel Saharan States (CEN-SAD) and those of other international and regional organizations, inter alia, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Arab League, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Non-Aligned Movement, which have all hailed the collected and praiseworthy demeanour of the Great Jamahiriya and the cooperation which it has demonstrated throughout this affair,

Considering the position of the Great Jamahiriya,

Reaffirming the principle of solidarity and all the other principles expressed in the Treaty establishing the Community of Sahel Saharan States (CEN-SAD),

1. *Demand* of the Security Council the immediate and definitive lifting of the resolution relating to the suspended embargo which has been imposed on the Jamahiriya, and which can no longer be morally or legally justified, now that the trial has been concluded;

2. *Request* the immediate release of the Libyan citizen Abdel Basit El Magrahi, who has been sentenced on political grounds unrelated to law or justice;

3. *Implore* the international and regional organizations, inter alia, OAU, the Arab League, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to exert maximum political pressure, and to instruct their various subcommittees to act swiftly to lift the embargo and end the problem.

United Nations A/55/813–S/2001/183

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General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 11
Report of the Security Council

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 27 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward a letter addressed to you from the President of the Ukraine, H.E. Mr. Leonid D. Kuchma, dated 26 February 2001 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council, and of the General Assembly under agenda item 11 of its fifty-fifth session.

(*Signed*) Valeriy **Kuchynsky**
Ambassador
Acting Permanent Representative

01-26960 (E) 280201

Annex to the letter dated 27 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Letter dated 26 February 2001 from the President of Ukraine addressed to the Secretary-General

On 1 March 2001, Ukraine is assuming the Presidency of the United Nations Security Council — the body which bears a great part of responsibility for the hopes that the peoples of the planet place on the role of the world Organization in building a better world. Ukraine has always attached special significance to the Charter powers of the Security Council, and has consistently taken a firm stand on enhancing its authority as a nucleus of the collective security system and a unique mechanism of the maintenance of international peace.

Ukraine considers its current membership in the Security Council, which coincides with the first decade of its restored national independence, as an international recognition of the correctness of its foreign policy course. It is also a manifestation of high confidence placed in Ukraine by the international community. Ukraine is determined to live up to these expectations to the full extent, and this includes the special responsibility assumed by our country in discharging the duties of a non-permanent member of the Security Council.

The active position of Ukraine's diplomacy within the Council's decision-making process is further strengthened by a concrete contribution to the implementation of its decisions. Today, Ukrainian peacekeepers participate in almost every peacekeeping operation which has been established or expanded during our membership in the Security Council. They contribute to maintaining peace in all parts of our planet — in the Balkans and in the Middle East, in Asia and in Africa. Today, Ukraine occupies the seventh position in the world and the first among European countries in terms of the number of its peacekeepers carrying out their noble mission under the United Nations flag.

Ukraine attaches particular importance to preserving the key role of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and to strengthening the Council's capabilities in this area. The important commitments made by the Security Council at its summit meeting in September 2000 attested to the Council's willingness to remain an effective instrument for protecting the state, society and the individual from security threats in the world of the twenty-first century.

Paying greater attention to the social and economic root causes of conflicts; attaching priority to the efforts aimed at preventing outbursts of violence; creating more consistent policy aimed at increasing the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations; improving guidelines and mechanisms for the use of enforcement measures, especially economic sanctions; bringing about comprehensive reform, including a more democratic decision-making process; enhancing cooperation with other United Nations principal organs, especially with the General Assembly: these are all areas in which achieving substantial progress is an indispensable prerequisite for ensuring an effective role for the Security Council in the changing world.

At a time when Ukraine is getting ready to take on the responsible and honourable mission of the Presidency of the Security Council, I would like to

reiterate my country's determination to contribute further to the strengthening of the United Nations and to demonstrate by concrete deeds its commitment to the high purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter

(*Signed*) Leonid D. **Kuchma**
President of Ukraine

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General Assembly
Security Council

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1 March 2001
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 40
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 1 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to my previous letters on the same subject, I have the honour to convey to you hereunder a list of the violations and infringements that were committed by Israel against Lebanon in the period from 16 to 28 February 2001. Lebanon regards these incidents as an extension of Israel's aggression against its people and territory.

16 February 2001

At 1220 hours Israeli forces fired several mortar rounds of miscellaneous calibre and direct-fire rounds at outlying areas Kafr Shuba, Majidiyah, Mari, Wazzani, Amrah and Ayn Arab and at the Riba' al-Tibn area outside Kafr Shuba from their outposts in the occupied Shab'a farmlands. A number of smoke projectiles landed on the road between Mari and Majidiyah. Two Israeli helicopters also flew over the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

17 February 2001

At 2035 hours an Israeli helicopter launched three illumination flares in an offshore area near Adlun.

20 February 2001

On the night of 19/20 February Israeli forces installed a monitoring camera on a metal watchtower on the Lebanon-Israel boundary between Kafr Killa and Udaydah in the vicinity of the Nabi Uwaydah intersection. It should be recalled that two monitoring cameras were installed in the same location on 14 February.

21 February 2001

Between 0920 and 1050 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tibnin, Bint Jubayl, Sidon and Damur areas, heading north at very high altitudes before leaving Lebanese airspace.

01-27163 (E) 060301 070301

Between 0810 and 0820 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre and Naqurah areas, the area adjacent to Ramiyah and the western sector at moderate altitudes.

At 0530 hours an Israeli gunboat launched illumination flares and fired bursts of medium-weapons fire in an area near Lebanese territorial waters at Naqurah.

24 February 2001

Between 2210 and 2230 hours Israeli forces strafed the vicinity of their outpost at Ramta hill in the occupied Shab'a farmlands with medium-weapons fire. An Israeli helicopter also flew over the farmlands and fired several bursts of medium-weapons fire at the area between Mazra'at Fashkul and Abbasiyah.

25 February 2001

At 1440 hours the Israeli army connected electricity cables to the barbed-wire fence between Lebanon and Israel at the Abbad position.

Between 0930 and 1200 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South, the Bekaa, Mount Lebanon and the North at very high altitudes, breaking the sound barrier.

26 February 2001

Between 0930 and 1030 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South and the occupied Shab'a farmlands at very high altitudes.

27 February 2001

Between 1345 and 1350 hours Israeli forces at the Mazra'at Fashkul outpost in the occupied Shab'a farmlands fired several bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at surrounding areas.

Between 0800 and 1500 hours three military bulldozers and a Poclain backhoe were engaged in excavation work in the occupied Shab'a farmlands near the Lebanon-Syria boundary at Ramta hill.

28 February 2001

Between 0930 and 1110 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South and Mount Lebanon at very high altitudes.

From 1130 hours an Israeli forces Poclain backhoe was engaged in excavation work along the Blue Line east of Ghajar. Another excavator was at work inside the outpost of the occupation forces at Ruwaysat al-Alam in the occupied Shab'a farmlands. An Israeli bulldozer was working on the road leading to the outpost at Mazra'at Fashkul. A metal pole some 20 metres long was raised at the Ramta hill outpost of the occupation forces, around which a crane was also installing reinforced-concrete cuboid obstacles.

Between 1305 and 1340 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Naqurah area at very high altitudes.

Between 1215 and 1300 hours Israeli forces sent a motorized patrol along the line between Abbasiyah and Mazra'at Fashkul in the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

Like the previous Israeli violations of which it represents a continuation, this latest series is in flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and of Lebanon's sovereignty and poses a threat to stability in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sélim **Tadmoury**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative